



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED:

June 8, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Closure of Certain Forest Roads, Roscommon County
Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 13 of 2009
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA), authorizes the Director to issue orders to implement land use rules.

Discussion and Background:

Department of Natural Resources (Department) staff is recommending the closure of forest roads located in the W1/2 of the NE1/4 of Section 7, T23N, R03W, Markey Township, Roscommon County. The roads must be closed for the following reasons:

The roads in this area are excess to the needs of the Department for land and resource management, and for public recreation land access. The roads receive heavy local use by conventional vehicles during dry summer conditions, and illegal use by ORVs. This excessive use is contributing to the erosion of hilly sections of the roads. A forest road to the east and an additional road to the west, as well as numerous forest roads to the west on adjacent state land, provide adequate access to this area. Staff recommendations are to close the roads using trenching and planting of red pine after a timber sale is completed and closed.

Department staff is also recommending the closure of a forest road located in the NW1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 8, T22N, R02W, Backus Township, Roscommon County. The road must be closed for the following reasons:

The road was previously closed and has illegally been reopened and, as such, is contributing to illegal ORV use. Closure of the road will provide for non-motorized recreational use and provide needed road free conditions for wildlife habitat. Staff recommendations include installing a culvert in a wet area to provide access for a timber harvest, and installing a gate to protect a managed

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Keith J. Charters, Chair • Mary Brown • Hurley J. Coleman, Jr. • John Madigan • Timothy L. Nichols • J. R. Richardson • Frank Wheatlake

STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING • P.O. BOX 30028 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7528
www.michigan.gov/dnr • (517) 373-2329

Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors!

wildlife opening. The road will then be used on an infrequent basis for Department management purposes.

Department staff is also recommending the closure of a forest road located in Sections 19 and 30, T22N, R03W, Denton Township, Roscommon County. The road must be closed for the following reasons:

The road is contributing to illegal ORV use, which is causing damage to soils, riparian zones and is contributing to run off into Denton Creek. Closure of the road will enhance non-motorized recreational use, provide habitat for wildlife with less roads, and provide for an old growth or bio-reserve area. Staff recommendations include replacing a missing culvert over Denton Creek and berming both sides of the creek to block the road to prevent illegal use by ORVs. The berms will be located 50' from the creek to prevent sediment runoff into the creek.

The Northern Lower Peninsula (NLP) Ecoteam has been informed of the immediate need for these road closures. The closures have been reviewed and are supported by the NLP Ecoteam.

The proposed road closures are on state lands within the boundary covered under the Consent Decree (Decree) for the 1836 Treaty. As required under Appendix L, paragraph 14.5 of the Decree, the Tribes and persons listed in the Decree have been provided notification and an opportunity to comment on the proposed road closures.

Recommendation:

This Order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item will appear on the June 29, 2009 calendar and may be eligible for approval on August 13, 2009.

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

Kelley D. Smith, Ph.D., Chief
Fisheries Division

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

David Freed, Chief
Office of Land and Facilities

Armina S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy

LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR

Amendment No. 13 of 2009

By authority conferred on the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by section 504 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.504, and pursuant to R 299.671 and R 299.921 of the Michigan Administrative Code, it is ordered that the following order of the Land Use Orders of the Director shall read as follows:

4.43 Certain state-owned lands, Roscommon county, camping, motorized vehicles, use or occupy lands, discharge of firearms, prohibited conduct.

Order 4.43. (1) A person shall not camp during the period May 1 through September 14 within the W1/2 of the NE1/4 of the SW1/4 of section 32, T22N R1W, Roscommon county.

(2) A person shall not camp, use, or occupy the twin lakes state forest campground in section 5, T21N R1W, ROSCOMMON COUNTY.

(3) A person shall not operate a wheeled motorized vehicle, except for otherwise lawful operation upon a designated trail or designated route within that part of section 14 lying west of highway M-55, and that part of section 23 lying west of highway M-76 and north of Emery road, T22N R1W, ROSCOMMON COUNTY.

(4) A person shall not camp, except in Reedsburg dam state forest campground, upon the NW1/4 of the NW1/4 and the SW1/4 of the SW1/4 of section 30; section 19; and the NW1/4 of the NW1/4 of section 31, T23N R4W, Roscommon county.

(5) A person shall not camp on state-owned lands within the E1/2 of the SE1/4 of the NE1/4 of the NE1/4, section 20, T22N R3W, Roscommon county.

(6) A person shall not discharge a firearm or operate a motorized vehicle within the SE1/4 of the NE1/4 of the SE1/4 of the SE1/4 and the NE1/4 of the SE1/4 of the SE1/4 of the SE1/4 of section 15, T23N R1W, Roscommon county.

(7) A PERSON SHALL NOT OPERATE A WHEELED MOTORIZED VEHICLE WITHIN THE W1/2 OF THE NE1/4 OF SECTION 7, T23N R03W. THE NW1/4 OF THE SE1/4 OF SECTION 8, T22N R02W, AND IN SECTIONS 19 AND 30, T22N R03W, ROSCOMMON COUNTY.

This amended order shall be posted on or after August 14, 2009.

Issued on this 13th day of August, 2009

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director